

OPPOSE H.B. 5653

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM GRANTS.

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to H.B. 5653 which proposes a tax on firearm ammunition. As a concerned citizen, I believe that this proposed tax is ill-conceived, unnecessary, and would have negative consequences on all law-abiding gun owners.

Firstly, the proposed tax on ammunition unfairly targets law-abiding gun owners who use their firearms for self-defense, hunting, and recreational shooting. Firearms and ammunition are already taxed with an 11% federal excise tax and Connecticut sales tax. Imposing an unlawful “Sin Tax” tax on ammunition would make it more expensive for these individuals to exercise their Second Amendment rights, which is unacceptable.

Furthermore, the proposed tax would have a disproportionate impact on low-income individuals, who may not be able to afford the increased cost of ammunition. This would effectively limit their ability to exercise their constitutional rights, which is unacceptable in a free and democratic society.

In addition, the proposed tax would not effectively address the issue of criminal violence. Criminals and other individuals who are intent on committing acts of violence will not be deterred by a tax on ammunition. Rather, this tax would only serve to penalize law-abiding citizens, while doing nothing to address the root causes of criminal violence.

Finally, it is worth noting that the proposed tax would have a negative impact on local businesses that sell ammunition. These small businesses are important members of our community, and a tax on ammunition could force many of them to close their doors, resulting in employment loss and reduced economic activity.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to reject H.B. 5653, the proposed tax on firearm ammunition. Instead, I encourage you to focus on measures that would effectively address the issues of criminal violence, while respecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Trotochaud
Oakdale, Connecticut